

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/040,643

Examiner

Tammy T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

CZEIGER ET AL.

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal brief filed on may 16, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


WILLIAM VAUGHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

Reasons for allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed May 26, 2006, the examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.
3. **Kanekar et al. (US 6,751,191)**, teaches a method and apparatus for providing a device for forwarding packets in a network that can load sharing and redundancy in a network which reduce the switchover time upon failure of a router. The methods use a master router and a slave routers which may be associated with a default gateway by assigning a share IP address and a share MAC address to the two routers, prior to failure of the master it communicates shared state information to the slave router, which is operating in a standby mode. (Kanekar col.2, lines 13-39).
4. **Wang et al. (6,834,326)**, teaches a system for connecting redundant arrays of devices (RAIDs) to a controller via a network. The controller multicasts command packets to the devices, and is typically configured as an intelligent switch, using multicasting allows the disk drives to be operated redundantly, while being separated from the controller by the network (Wang, abstract, and col.1, lines 21-22, col.3, lines 58-62).
5. However, the prior art of the record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a method and a apparatus for transferring information comprising: operating a

first network comprising first-network-stations under an Ethernet protocol; operating a second network comprising second-network-stations under a Fibre Channel (FC) protocol; grouping the first-network-station into one or more virtual local area networks (VLANs), each of the VLANs comprising one or more of the first-network-stations which transfer a respective VLAN-data-frame within the VLAN; grouping the second-network-station into one or more FC zones, each of the zones comprising one or more of the second-network-stations which transfer a respective zone-data-frame within the zone; coupling the first and second networks together using a gateway to convey data between the networks; **configuring the gateway with a primary association mapping a primary VLAN chosen from the VLANs and a primary zone chosen from the zones, the primary VLAN transferring a primary VLAN-data-frame comprising primary-data, comprised in the data, therein, and the primary zone transferring a primary zone-data-frame comprising the primary-data therein; and translating in the gateway between the primary VLAN-data-frame and the primary zone-data-frame, responsive to the primary association, so as convey the primary-data between the primary VLAN and primary zone via the gateway as set forth in independent claims 1, and 11.** Claims 2-10, 12-20 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitations are listed above.

6. The examiner finds the Applicant's arguments on pages 5-7 of the Remarks filed on May 16, 2006 to be persuasive. The applicant argued in substance that the combination of prior art of records fail to disclose the features as indicated by above statements in combination with all the elements of each independent claims as argued by the applicant and applicant's enabling portions of the specification (see Remark pages 5-7 and see Specification, page 14, lines 17-29 describe association between a VLAN and an FC zone, that configured in the gateway, and see page 16,

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to page 17, line 29, and page 17, line 30 to page 19, line 9, also in figure 3 shows transferring data from an FC zone to a VLAN and in Figure 4 shows transferring data from a VLAN to an FC zone).

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammy T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3929.


The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *William Vaughn* can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTN

August 2, 2006


WILLIAM VAUGHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100